

On my father's accession he started a collection of birds killed in the islands, confining the collection to the rarer migrants, but he was always careful to protect any species already included in his collection. To ornithologists the collection in the Abbey is a most interesting one, and comprises the Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*), the Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*), the Solitary Sandpiper (*Totanus solitarius*), and White's Thrush (*Turdus aureus*). The Hawks are well represented, and include the Common Kite and Lesser Kestrel, the Iceland and Greenland Falcons, and the White-tailed Eagle. The islands lend themselves naturally to visitations of various Waders, and there are large tracts of sandy beaches, dunes, and fresh-water marshes.

"My father was by no means a scientific naturalist, but was always a keen observer of birds and quick to detect an unfamiliar flight or note, and in this he was ably supported by David Smith, his keeper, who at the age of 86 knocked the Yellow-browed Warbler down with his stick in a bramble-bush and secured it."

In medieval days Scilly was a monastic property, and in 1687 it was granted by the Crown to Sidney Godolphin, the well-known statesman of the Restoration. It remained in the Godolphin family until 1831, when Mr. Augustus Smith became the lessee or Lord Proprietor.

VIII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

Beebe's Jungle Peace.

[Jungle Peace. By William Beebe. Illustrated from photographs. Pp. x+297. New York (Henry Holt), 1918. 8vo.]

Under this title Captain Beebe sends us a volume of essays most of which have already appeared in the 'Atlantic Monthly.' They deal with scenes and incidents of his recent journeys to South America, the greater number of them relating to British Guiana. The title derives from the fact that Captain Beebe re-visited these

scenes after his return from some months on the western front, and the contrast of "creeping through slime-filled holes beneath the shrieking of swift metal" and "splashing one's plane through companionable clouds three miles above the little jagged hero-filled ditches, and dodging other sudden-born clouds of nauseous fumes and blasting heart of steel," with the "great green wonderland of the tropical jungle" is undoubtedly vast; at the same time all is not peace even in the tropical jungle, as witness the author's account of the march of the so-called "army ants" across a pit excavated by him to entrap the unwary dweller of the forest.

The essays are full of observations of bird- and other animal-life, and the descriptions of many of the scenes entrancing, and make one long to join him in the primeval forest-lands of Guiana.

Written for the general public and not for specialists, the facts recorded are of less importance than the impressions created in the mind by the reading of the fascinating descriptions, which should surely stimulate all nature-lovers to endeavour some time in their lives to visit the exuberant forest-regions of South America.

Féris on Bird-song.

[Contribution à l'étude des cris et du chant des oiseaux dans ses rapports avec la musique, par M. F. de Féris. Bull. Inst. Gén. Psychol. Paris, xvii. 1917, pp. 87-130.]

M. de Féris deals with the voice of birds from the point of view of psychology, and endeavours to trace the analogy between the evolution of bird-song and that of the human voice. After a chapter showing how the voice of birds corresponds to the locality and surrounding in which they live, he proceeds to discuss the great difficulty of the notation or representation on paper of the voices of birds. This he himself attempts by a combination of ordinary musical notation with a syllabic rendering of the words.

In his final conclusion he traces the origin of the highly specialized musical forms of the present day from the very

simple melodies without harmonics or intervals as practised by the ancient Greeks, and he believes that he can prove that a similar development has taken place among birds from extremely simple forms to the most highly specialized song of such birds as the Thrush, the Blackbird, the Robin, and the Nightingale, all of which improvise their varying song.

In order to understand thoroughly M. de Fénis' views it is necessary to be trained in music, but we should point out that the discussion only deals with the common European birds such as are found in France, and that he appears to rely for most of his observations on those of various authors whose rendering of the songs of individual birds may be very different owing to the varying psychology of the investigator.

Ghigi on the origin of the Domestic Fowl.

[Ricerche sull' incrociamiento del *Gallus sonnerati* con polli domestici. Memoria del Prof. Alessandro Ghigi. Mem. R. Acc. Sci. Bologna (S) iii. pp. 1-16, 1 Tav.]

In this memoir Prof. Ghigi states the results of his experiments in crossing the two species of Jungle-Fowl *Gallus sonnerati* and *G. gallus* and also various members of the domestic races. All of these he finds completely fertile with one another through several generations. From this he deduces the conclusion that our domestic races are not, as has been believed by Charles Darwin and many other writers, monogenetic and descended solely from *Gallus gallus* (= *G. bankiva* auct.), but that they are bigenetic and have been derived from both *G. gallus* and *G. sonnerati*.

Details of the hybrids and of their mendelian inheritance are given, and the plate illustrates the feather-characters of the pure strains and of the various crosses.

Gladstone's Ornithologist's Note-Book.

[An Ornithologist's Field Note-Book by Hugh S. Gladstone, M.A., etc. London (Bickers & Son), 1918. Price 2d.]

This little book contains a list of the commoner British

Birds compiled from the B. O. U. List and printed on one side of the page only. Captain Gladstone believes that it will be found useful for carrying in the pocket when out for a country walk, or when visiting a new locality, for noting down birds either seen or heard.

The Birds of Passage and the occasional and rarer Visitors have not been included in the list, but the Residents, Summer visitants, and Winter visitants are designated by "R" "S" or "W" being placed after their names, while those which have peculiar British racial forms are distinguished by an asterisk.

The pamphlet will undoubtedly be a useful one, but we could have wished for something a little more elaborated with short descriptions such as the work of Mr. Clive Lord on Tasmanian birds which we have noticed on page 136. Perhaps Mr. Gladstone will attempt something on these lines.

Lönnerberg on African Birds.

[Birds collected in Eastern Congo by Captain Elias Arrhenius. By Einar Lönnerberg. Ark. Zool. Stockholm, x. no. 24, 1917, pp. 1-27.]

[Notes on some interesting East-African Birds. Id., ibid. xi. no. 5, 1917, pp. 1-5.]

The first of these collections, consisting of about 525 specimens and 184 species, was made by Captain Arrhenius in the neighbourhood of Beni in the forest region north of Lake Albert Edward. A number of interesting species are mentioned, some of them not in Reichenow's recently published avifauna of the Central African Lake district, which shows such close affinities to the West African faunal area. The female, previously unknown, of *Columba albinucha* Sassi is described, and an interesting new Hawk, *Accipiter beniensis*, allied to *A. sharpei* Rehw., is described. Names for two other subspecies believed to be distinct, *Mesopicus schoensis semischoensis* and *Neocossyphus rufus arrhenii*, are suggested.

The second paper deals with a collection of birds made at Elgon and Londiani in British East Africa by Dr. Leo Bayer,

and sent to the Zoological Museum at Christiania. Only a few of the more interesting specimens are dealt with, and among these are two new forms—*Astur tachiro tenebrosus*, possibly a melanism or possibly a constant local race inhabiting dark forest, and *Zosterops bayeri*, allied to *Z. jacksoni* Neum.

Lord on Tasmanian Birds.

[A Descriptive List of the Birds of Tasmania and adjacent Islands. By Clive E. Lord. Pp. 1-48. Hobart (Walch & Sons), 1917.]

This little pocket-book appears to be a most practical work for the outdoor naturalist. Every Tasmanian species is listed with a short description, the approximate length of the bird is given (perhaps the length of the wing would have been better), and the number of the eggs, their colour and when laid, all contained in about six lines, a wonderful work of compression.

The classification and nomenclature are those of Mr. Mathews, and although technical terms have been avoided care has been taken to make the list as complete as possible.

A list of British Birds drawn up on similar lines would be most useful.

Mathews on Australian Birds.

[The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. vii. pt. iii. pp. 217-320, pls. 243-251. London (Witherby): August 1918.]

In this part we have a large amount of exceptionally interesting notes on the life-histories of the various species, many of which are uncommon or at least little known. The author continues the Caprimulgine birds with *Eurostopodus* and *Rossornis*, while he suggests that the absence of the long rictal bristles in the former shews arrested development, as compared with *Caprimulgus*. Two species are recognised—*E. mystacalis* (= *E. albigularis* Vig. & Horsf.) and *E. guttatus* (= *E. argus* Hartert), but no subspecies for the present. *Rossornis* is a new genus for the long-tailed, golden-hued *C. macrurus* Horsf.; *Eximiornis* is similarly proposed for *C. eximius* Temm. There follows a long disser-

tation on the forms of *Rossornis*, and a comparison with the decisions of Rothschild and Hartert on the subject; eventually the Australian *yorki* and *keatsi*, with the Bornean *salvadorii*, are granted subspecific rank, as well as the Australian *coincidens* and *rogersi* and the extralimital *aruensis* from the Aru Islands, the last two being new subspecies. Several other forms are enumerated, and raise the total to fourteen or more, even without those from New Guinea and New Britain.

There is no general discussion prefixed to the Micropodiformes (Swifts); possibly it is postponed until this section is concluded.

Mr. Mathews still uses the generic term *Zoonava* for *Collocalia francica* and *C. fuciphaga*, and under this head comments on the recent work of Ogilvie-Grant, Hartert, Oberholser, and Stresemann; but we cannot here tabulate the many subspecies, and must be content to state that he accepts Oberholser's *Aerodramus* for *innominata* of Hume.

Under *Hirundinapus* the author further criticizes the work of his predecessors, and refuses (with Oberholser) to combine the genus with *Chætura*. He considers that there are two main groups, of larger and smaller species; while he admits the separation of the genera *Streptoprocne*, *Pallenia*, *Rhaphidura*, and *Mearnsia*, adding as new, *Telacanthura* for *ussheri*, *Neafrapus* for *cassini*, *Alterapus* for *sabini*, *Indicapus* for *sylvaticus*, *Zoonavena* for *grandidieri*, *Papuanapus* for *novæ-guinææ*, *Chæturellus* for *rutilus* and another.

It may be observed that both *Hirundinapus caudacutus* and *Micropus pacificus* are represented in the Watling drawings. Of the latter the plumages are not sufficiently well known to justify subspecies, and even *colcloughi* Mathews is dropped.

Mr. Mathews finds the Cuculiformes too heterogeneous and diverse a group to consider in connection with extralimital forms, but to many readers the articles on the Cuckoos will be the most interesting in this part, and in particular the notes on the hosts of the Pallid and Fan-tailed Cuckoos by Mr. H. L. White (pp. 307, 318), and the

description of the ousting of nestlings of foster-parents by the former taken from Barrett's account in 'The Emu' (vol. v. p. 20). The male of this bird is said to be monogamous.

The forms treated in this part are *Cuculus optatus*, *Heteroscenes pallidus*, and *Cacomantis rubricatus*, of which various subspecies are upheld (pp. 290, 309, 320) and one is newly proposed (*Cacomantis eyrei*). A new species is *Cuculus waigoui*, and a new genus *Vidgenia* (for *Cacomantis castaneiventris*).

As usual, a general introduction is prefixed to the Order, with the views of various authorities as to its subdivision, the families used by Mr. Mathews being Cuculidæ, Eudynamisidæ [*sic*], Scythropidæ, and Centropodidæ.

Robinson and Kloss on new Malayan Birds.

[Four new birds from Java. By H. C. Robinson. Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus. vii. 1918, pp. 235-237.]

[On two new species of Flower-Peckers (Dicæidæ) from the Malay region. By H. C. Robinson and C. B. Kloss. Ibid. pp. 239-240.]

In the first of these short notes Mr. Robinson describes *Dendrobiastes hyperythra vulcani*, *Pomatorhinus montanus ottolanderi*, *Stachyridopsis melanothorax intermedia* subspp. n., and *Stachyris orientalis* sp. n., all from Java.

The second note by Messrs. Robinson & Kloss contains descriptions of *Piprisoma sordidum* sp. n. from Selangor, Malay Peninsula, and of *Dicæum vanheysti* sp. n. from north-eastern Sumatra.

Shufeldt on the Monkey-eating Eagle of the Philippine Is.

[Our big colonial eagle-terror of the wild monkeys of the Philippines. Amer. Forestry, vol. xxiv. 1918, pp. 555-557.]

Dr. Shufeldt has recently received from Mr. R. C. McGregor, the well-known ornithologist of the Philippine Islands, a head and foot together with the greater part of the skeleton of an example of the rare *Pithecophaga jefferyi*. He proposes to use this material to investigate the anatomical relations of this, the largest of Accipitrine birds.

From the external characters, which alone have been hitherto examined, it has been supposed that it was most nearly allied to the Harpy Eagle of South America (*Thrasaëtes harpyia*). We hope that Dr. Shufeldt's research, which will be published in a forthcoming number of the 'Philippine Journal of Science,' will settle this question.

In the short article whose title is here quoted Dr. Shufeldt gives a résumé of what is at present known about the bird, illustrated with photographs taken by himself of the head and foot alluded to above. These should be compared with Grönvold's pictures in Ogilvie-Grant's article in 'The Ibis' (1897, pp. 216, 218).

Taverner on Canadian Birds.

[The Gannets of Bonaventura Island. By P. A. Taverner. Ottawa Nat. xxxii. 1918, pp. 21-26.]

[Addenda to the Birds of Jasper Park, Alberta. By P. A. Taverner. Canadian Alpine Journ. ix. 1918, pp. 62-69.]

Lying off the coast of the Gaspé Peninsula in the extreme eastern portion of the Quebec Province south of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, is the little island of Bonaventura. This and Bird Rock near the Magdalen Islands, also in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and a much more inaccessible spot, are the only two known rookeries of the Gannet on the western side of the Atlantic.

Mr. Taverner describes in a readable and picturesque article two visits he recently made to this island in 1914 and 1915. The Gannets nest on the seaward face of the island where there are high cliffs weathered into a series of ledges, and he estimates the number of the individual birds at about 8000. In horizontal cracks extending back into the heart of the rock are to be found breeding Murres, or Guillemots as we should call them, Razorbills, and Puffins; while Leach's Petrels resort to smaller crevices and clefts, whence they only come out at night. Mr. Taverner mentions a curious sweetish odour proceeding from these last which he states is not unpleasant. It seems a pity that something cannot be done to preserve the Gannets on

Bonaventura Island, as they seem to suffer a good deal from wanton persecution at the hands of irresponsible gunners and others. Mr. Taverner informs us that notwithstanding the exertions of many people interested in protection, the local feeling is very strong against any legislative action and so far has prevented steps being taken by the Conservation Commission to reserve this spot as a perpetual bird-reserve under the control of the Provincial or Dominion authorities. We hope the local "conservativeness," as Mr. Taverner calls it, will soon be overcome. The article is illustrated by some good photographs well reproduced.

The second paper forms a supplement to one published in the same journal in 1912 by Mr. J. H. Riley on the birds of Jasper Park and the neighbourhood. Thirty additional species are noted in the present paper, bringing up the total number observed or obtained to 108.

Jasper Park is a Government Reserve in the Canadian Rocky Mountains, a good deal to the north of where the Canadian Pacific Railway crosses the range, and is reached from the new transcontinental line of the Grand Trunk Railway.

Van Oort on the Birds of Holland.

[Ornithologia Neerlandica. De Vogels van Nederland, door Dr. E. D. van Oort. Parts 1 & 2; pp. 1-24, pls. 1-20. 'S Gravenhage (Martinus Nijhoff). [1918.] 4to.]

Our foreign member, Dr. van Oort, Director of the Leyden Museum, has sent us the first two numbers of his new book on the birds of Holland. No general work on this subject has been published since the time of his predecessor at Leyden, Professor Schlegel, who in 1858 published his "De Vogels van Nederlands."

Dr. van Oort's book is planned on a sumptuous scale and will be issued in 40 parts, each containing 10 plates and about 12 pages of text, so that when completed it will have about 400 plates. The price of each part is 12.50 guilders, about £1, so that the subscription for the whole work will amount to about £40, but publication will be spread over about eight years.

The two parts before us deal with the Grebes, Divers, Shearwaters, and Solan Goose. With the genera are keys of the species, and with each species references chiefly to the works of Dutch authors, together with the vernacular names met with in Holland. A detailed description is followed by the general distribution, the occurrence in Holland, and the life-history. The nomenclature is based on a list of Dutch birds published by the author in the 'Notes from the Leyden Museum' for 1908, with such modifications as appear to have been necessitated by recent researches. As a matter of fact, so far as the text in the present two parts is concerned, it corresponds exactly to that in the B. O. U. list of British Birds, except that *Hydrobates* is used as a generic name for the Storm-Petrel instead of *Thalassidroma*.

Of the plates a few words must be said; they are drawn by M. A. Koekkoek under the direction of Dr. van Oort, and are reproduced by Messrs. Emrik and Binger of Haarlem by what appears to be some process of chromolithography. The plates show very well the distinctions of the various species; especially is this the case with the Slavonian and the Black-necked Grebes, where in each case birds both in breeding and winter dress are figured. The one which pleases us best is the Little Grebe, a charming scene with male, female, and a young bird in down. The Shearwaters appear to us less successful. They are all shown standing on a sandy beach close to the sea—an unlikely spot to find such a bird—and the birds are standing in stilted and stiff attitude and appear to have been drawn from stuffed specimens. This is of course in many cases inevitable, but still we think more life could have been put into the drawings if the artist had studied the birds in the flesh.

The work is, however, undoubtedly a fine one and planned on very generous lines. It will doubtless become, when finished, the standard work on the Birds of Holland, and we shall look forward to seeing the future numbers as published.

The Auk.

[The Auk. A quarterly journal of Ornithology. Published by the American Ornithologists' Union. Vol. xxxv. for 1918.]

The completed volume of the 'Auk' for last year contains over 840 pages, and it is impossible to review all the various papers contained in it, and we can only mention some of those of more general interest.

It is rather remarkable that Mr. H. L. Clark, who writes on anatomical matters, has selected for one of his papers a somewhat similar subject to that of Mr. G. L. Bates in his recent paper in 'The Ibis.' He has traced the correlation of the number of major upper tail-coverts with the number of rectrices, and finds a good deal of variation in this respect. He has not found any allusion to the matter in literature, and believes that the point is a new one and may throw some light on phylogeny and classification. In all the Passeres examined the two central rectrices lack their corresponding coverts, which are therefore 10 in number, there being of course 12 rectrices. In most of the Waders, Hawks, and Woodpeckers the number of the coverts and rectrices are the same, in the Owls and some other groups the coverts are more numerous than the rectrices, while in a Toucan (*Ramphastos cuvieri*) there are 20 to 22 coverts to 10 rectrices. The whole subject is an interesting one, and we hope Mr. Clark will continue his study of the subject. Other anatomical papers by Mr. Clark deal with the Cuban Trogon (*Priotelus temnurus*) and the now extinct Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*), of which the pterylosis is described.

Mr. H. C. Oberholser has several papers on the taxonomy of North American birds, in most cases pointing out fresh reasons for the recognition of subspecies already proposed by other authors and in some cases suggesting nomenclatural emendations. He draws attention to a curious mistake of Messrs. Mathews and Iredale who stated that *Tringa maculata* of Vieillot was preoccupied by *T. maculata* of Linnæus, whereas there is no *T. maculata* but only a *T. macularia* of Linnæus. Mr. Oberholser points out

(p. 468) that the Glaucous Gull (*Larus glaucus* of the B. O. U. List) must bear the name *Larus hyperboreus* Gunnerus, and that *L. barrovianus* Ridgway is only a subspecies of the Glaucous Gull. This is a matter for the committee of the B. O. U. List to investigate. A long list of proposed changes in the A. O. U. Check-list is also given on pp. 200-217, but it must be remembered that these are not to be considered valid until passed by the Check-list committee.

Mr. F. H. Kennard writes on the ferruginous stains so often noticed in water-fowl, especially in such birds as the Snow-Geese. On chemical analysis it is found to be due, as might be expected, to oxide of iron, and is no doubt acquired by the habit of digging for food among the mud and decaying vegetation of the iron-bearing waters of marshes.

An ingenious method of extracting fat from birdskins is described by Mr. H. Lloyd. The fluid employed is ethyl ether, and with the apparatus described Mr. Lloyd finds it most successful.

The Loon or Diver of north-eastern Siberia is distinguished by its greenish-coloured throat, and Dr. J. Dwight, believing it to be hitherto undescribed, names it *Gavia viridigularis*. He distinguishes *G. arctica arctica* of northern Europe, *G. a. suschkini* Sarudny of Turkestan, and *G. a. pacifica* of arctic North America, all of which have purplish throats. Another species is renamed by Mr. Stone on p. 244, *Troglodytes musculus chapmani* vice *T. m. neglectus* preoccupied. This name is given in a review of Dr. Chapman's recent volume on the Birds of Colombia. We hope Mr. Stone will forgive us if we point out the inadvisability of hiding any new names in reviews where they are very apt to pass unnoticed by the unwary investigator.

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*) is always a rare bird and the eggs and young have only been known since 1910, when they were secured in the north-eastern corner of Siberia by Captain Kleinschmidt

for Mr. J. E. Thayer, who described them in the 'Auk' for 1911. In the present volume Mr. J. Dixon gives us some further particulars of the breeding and other habits of this bird as observed by him at Providence Bay, also in north-eastern Siberia, and adds some interesting details of its distribution and status as a North American bird.

Mr. C. J. Hawkins contributes an article on "Sexual selection and bird-song," in which he criticizes Darwin's theories of sexual selection and suggests that the cause of song lies in the internal life of the bird rather than in external causes. He believes that bird-song as well as many other manifestations of secondary sexual characters is due to the ripening of the gonads and the setting free of hormones which stimulate the nervous system and thus cause the nuptial display. This argument from the so-called hormones, which are entirely hypothetical and the existence of which have never been proved, does not appear to us to entirely invalidate Darwin's theory of sexual selection, but we must leave the reader of Mr. Hawkins's paper to draw his own conclusions.

A number of faunal papers dealing with different districts of the North American continent are of more local interest, but we must mention "A list of birds collected on the Harvard Peruvian Expedition of 1916," by Messrs. O. Bangs and G. K. Noble, in which are described a number of new species and races, while there are several rectifications of taxonomy and synonymy.

Avicultural Magazine.

[The Avicultural Magazine. Edited by Graham Renshaw, M.D. Third Series. Vol. ix. November 1917 to October 1918.]

The last completed volume of the 'Avicultural Magazine' shows no signs of diminishing interest in matters avicultural, though it was found necessary, in consequence of the scarcity and increased cost of paper as well as the great rise in the price of printing, to diminish the size of the monthly numbers from June onwards, but we understand that an increase

to the normal number of pages has since been sanctioned by the committee.

One of the new features of the magazine is the devotion of each number to a special subject; thus in the present volume there have been two Anzac numbers dealing with Australian birds, as well as American and South African numbers, while others deal with Economics, Vultures, and Zoological Gardens.

Among more strictly avicultural articles Mr. W. S. Baily tells us of his success in breeding the Mexican Black-breasted Quail (*Colinus pectoralis*), which has brought him the award of the Society's medal, and Mr. Blaauw has successfully reared a young Brazilian Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus torridus*), which has probably never been bred in captivity previously. Another very practical article is one on the Diseases of Birds by Mr. P. F. M. Galloway, which will doubtless be most useful to readers.

Captain B. E. Potter writes pleasantly on the Birds of Macedonia, and Dr. Hopkinson's article on the Birds of the Gambia is reprinted from the 'Journal of the African Society.' In this last Dr. Hopkinson points out the interesting fact that the Gambia's avifauna is increased by two double migrations, one from Europe and the north in October returning in April, the other from the south which arrives at the beginning of the rains in June or July of birds from the more equatorial parts which come to breed in Senegambia; this latter group returns south about the end of the rains, their departure being spread over several months from October to January.

Among the tragedies of the war must be included the destruction of the wonderful collection of live birds at Villers-Bretonneux belonging to Lieut. J. Delacour, which occurred during the German push towards Amiens in the earlier part of 1918. There were some 360 birds representing 141 species in the collection, the whole of which were destroyed. A list of the species is given on p. 305 of the present volume.

“An Old Australian Bird-Lover” contributes an interesting article on the methods adopted by Mr. J. E. Ward to secure a collection of live Birds-of-Paradise in the interior of New Guinea. We are glad to observe that the Commonwealth Government have very strict regulations in regard to this traffic, and no collecting can be done without a license and the payment of fees, while the numbers permitted to be taken are distinctly stated in the license. Mr. Ward was fortunate enough to secure six examples of the rare Blue Bird-of-Paradise (*Paradisornis rudolphi*), which is only to be obtained far away from the coast in the interior at an elevation of 6000 feet.

Two very remarkable photographs by Mr. G. E. Low are among the illustrations of this volume; one is of a running Apteryx taken in the Dublin Zoo, the other of nesting Puffins on the Saltee Islands off the coast of Wexford, and with this we must conclude our necessarily brief notice of a capital volume.

The Emu.

[The Emu: Official organ of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union. Vol. xvii. Melbourne. July 1917–April 1918.]

A comparatively new feature of the ‘Emu’ is the appearance of a coloured plate as a frontispiece to each number. In the present volume, *Climacteris waitei*, recently discovered and described by Capt. S. A. White in central Australia; *Ephthianura crocea*, a rare and little-known Bush-Chat from north Queensland; *Platycercus elegans fleurieuensis*, a new form of the Rosella Parrot from Fleurieu Peninsula in South Australia, described by Mr. Ashby in the same volume: and *Pachycephala peninsulae*, a remarkable Thickhead or Whistler from north Queensland, are all in this way honoured. In the case of the second and fourth, Mr. A. S. Campbell writes a few words of explanation.

Mr. Campbell also, in this instance assisted by Mr. H. G. Barnard, has contributed an account of the birds observed by them in the Rockingham Bay district of north Queensland, a rich country ornithologically and containing

very interesting species; some fine photographs of nests and eggs illustrate this article, while many protests are made against some of the new or newly discovered names applied by Mathews to what Mr. Campbell no doubt considers to be old friends, though in each case the Mathewsian as well as the R.A.O.U. Check-list names are given.

Another important faunal paper, of which three instalments appear in the present volume, is that of Dr. W. Macgillivray, the President of the R.A.O.U. The first portion is mainly occupied by an account of the wanderings of Mr. M'Lennan, who was commissioned by Dr. Macgillivray in 1913 to collect for him in the northern part of the Cape York Peninsula. In 1915 Dr. Macgillivray himself joined Mr. M'Lennan, and the results seem to have been very satisfactory as a considerable booty was obtained. One of the special objects of the exploration was to find out about some strange Parrots reported to exist on the Pascoe river. These turned out to be new representatives of genera hitherto unrecorded from Australia—*Geoffroyus personatus maclennani* and *Eclectus pectoralis macgillivrayi*, and have already been reported on in our pages.

The question of the existence of two races of the Little Penguin (*Eudyptula*) on the Australian coasts has always exercised Australian ornithologists, and Mr. Mathews apparently has not yet spoken authoritatively on the subject. Dr. Brooke Nicholls, with the object of throwing further light on the problem, paid a visit to the Penguin rookery on Phillip Island on the Victorian coast in March 1917, and his report is published in the January number. After an historical introduction on the history of the Penguin from the time of Vasco da Gama onwards, he gives tables of measurements and descriptions of the colour of the bills and feet of the Little Penguin, as well as a detailed account of the rookeries, illustrated with many photographs. He comes to the conclusion that all the birds on Phillip Island must at any rate be referred to one species—*Eudyptula minor novæ-hollandiæ*.

The White-winged Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon leucoptera*) is practically unknown in Australia, and only one or two somewhat doubtful instances of its occurrence have been recorded. Recently there has been a remarkable visitation of this bird to Western Australia, and many thousands have been observed at various localities along the coast. Mr. W. B. Alexander, who first noticed the Tern at Easter time in 1917, and who has collected and published an account of what others as well as himself have observed, states that nearly all the birds were in immature or intermediate plumage, and though a few were seen in the breeding-dress no specimen was secured.

A pathetic interest attaches to a short note by Col. W. V. Legge, probably his last contribution to ornithology, recording the first occurrence of *Gypoictinia melanosterna*, the Black-breasted Buzzard, in Tasmania.

List of other Ornithological Publications received.

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